

Serial No.: 10/671,846
Amdt. Dated October 25, 2005
Reply to Office action of August 25, 2005

133074-1

REMARKS

In the office action mailed August 25, 2005 the Examiner rejected claims 1-13. Claims 14-28 were withdrawn pursuant to an earlier restriction requirement and election. The August 25, 2005 Office action has been carefully considered. In order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, claims 1-13 have been amended and claims 14-28 have been canceled. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application by the Examiner in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

35 USC § 102 Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 1-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by McGrath et al. (U.S. Patent 4,025,159; hereinafter called "McGrath").

Claims 1-13 have been amended to recite, "...multilayer backlighting display optical film..." to more clearly recite the subject matter of the claimed invention. Claims 1 and 9 have been further amended to recite, "...backlighting display component films ..." to more clearly recite the subject matter of the claimed invention. No new matter has been added.

The Applicants respectfully submit that, especially as amended, claim 1 recites patentable subject matter over McGrath. McGrath neither discloses nor suggests backlighting component films for optical devices such as liquid crystal displays, instead only discloses retroreflecting sheeting which cannot be used for backlighting purposes.

In contrast, claim 1 of the instant specification teaches, among other things, forming a single film structure for backlighting displays by joining at least two backlighting display component films with at least one backlighting display component film having an upper and lower surface, the upper surface comprising a series of optical structures and a plurality of raised spacing structures which form the joining structures, the lower surface being essentially planar.

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Such backlighting display component films include but are not limited to diffusers, brightness enhancement films, and polarization recycling films. See for example, paragraphs [0002], [0003] and [0011] of the instant specification. McGrath does not disclose or suggest such backlighting display component films.

Therefore the Applicants urge that claims 1-13 are not anticipated by McGrath. The Applicants respectfully request that rejection of claims 1-13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit the application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

Should the examiner believe that anything further is needed to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,



Andrew J. Caruso
Reg. No. 48,520

General Electric Company
Building K1, Room 3A71
Niskayuna, New York 12301
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Telephone: (518) 387-7354